



Embassy of the United States of America, Manila

Public Affairs Section

# NEWS RELEASE

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## **PRESIDENT OBAMA APPROVES 3.1 BILLION PESOS IN SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING FOR FILIPINO VETERANS EQUITY COMPENSATION PROGRAM**

On July 29, 2010, U.S. President Barack Obama signed into law HR 4899, the "Supplemental Appropriations Act 2010." Among the law's provisions is that \$67 million (roughly 3.1 billion pesos) may be used for the Filipino Veterans Equity Compensation Program.

The overwhelming majorities of veterans' claims has been decided and continue to be paid with the \$198 million in original funding. The supplement will ensure speedy compensation to all eligible Filipino WWII veterans, including those whose denied claims are successfully appealed.

"Ensuring that the sacrifices of brave Filipino WWII veterans are compensated under the terms of the law further underscores our respect for the Filipino people and our commitment to honoring their service," said U.S. Ambassador Harry K. Thomas, Jr.

Since February 2009, the Manila office of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has processed nearly 37,000 claims and paid out over 9 billion pesos.

Millions of pesos in payments for other benefits continue to be paid each year to Filipino veterans separate from the funding under the Equity Compensation Program.

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